

REMARKS

New claims 118-120 have been added with this Amendment and are pending.
Claims 21-117 have been canceled without prejudice.

NEW CLAIMS 118-120

During prosecution of the present application's parent (i.e., Application Serial No. 08/699,712), the Examiner allowed claims that are identical to newly-added claims 118-120 in the present application. See Appl. Serial No. 08/699,712, Paper No. 15 (Office Action mailed April 19, 1999, indicating that claims 207-209 are allowable and rejecting all other claims). At that time, Applicants elected to file a continuation application (i.e., the present application) and abandon the parent. The allowed claims were not included in the continuation application and, in a Preliminary Amendment filed September 17, 1999, Applicants erroneously indicated that the Examiner had previously rejected all pending claims in the parent application. Applicants would like to correct that error and resubmit the previously-allowed claims, which, in light of the Examiner's previous consideration, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

CANCELED CLAIMS 21-117

To facilitate the timely issuance of claims 118-120, Applicants have canceled claims 21-117 without prejudice to Applicants' right to re-file these claims in one or more continuation applications. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's basis for rejecting these claims, that issue is now moot.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter this Amendment and pass the pending claims to issuance.

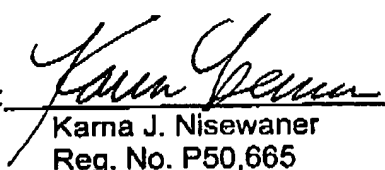
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 27, 2002

By: _____


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